

FROM THE STATE FORESTER



TIMOTHY C. BOYCE

This issue of Alabama's TREASURED Forests magazine represents a milestone. It marks the 20th anniversary of the publication.

Twenty years ago the Alabama Forestry Commission made the decision to publish this magazine instead of hiring a new forester. It was thought that through a magazine, practical information and do-it-yourself techniques could be provided to a larger group than one forester could reach. It was hoped that the magazine would "inspire landowners to implement needed forestry practices." The Alabama Forestry Commission also decided that as long as it could, the four issues per year subscription to the magazine would be free to anyone who wanted it.

The first issue was published in the fall of 1982 and the first mailing list included 6,000 names, mostly landowners. Two decades later the Commission is still dedicated to providing practical information and do-it-yourself techniques to Alabama landowners. Now the magazine has a mailing list of almost 13,000. Not only does it include thousands of landowners but also it is mailed to public and private libraries, schoolteachers, legislators, congressional representatives, county commissioners, and mayors. It reaches fire departments, government agencies, and private groups, and it also goes to hundreds of individuals who just enjoy reading the magazine. And, it is still free to anyone who wants to receive it. We have also made it available on our web site at www.forestry.state.al.us.

I want to restate the Commission's commitment to provide valuable information and useful techniques through the magazine. In this year's summer issue we increased the number of full color pages from 8 to 16, and we are making a greater effort in planning each issue to cover a variety of timely topics. We hope that we are providing a "user friendly" publication and our editorial staff encourages reader input and suggestions.

The Alabama Forestry Commission is proud of the Alabama's TREASURED Forests magazine and hopes that through it we are helping make Alabama a better place for people through forestry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "T C Boyce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.